

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Existence of Classes in the Chinese Communist Party

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1. There is considerable evidence of the existence of classes in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to be derived from casual conversations with Party members. Such persons, in mentioning prominent Party personalities, identify such personalities or explain their actions by such phrases as "he is one of the Manchuria group," or "he served with the East River column," and so on. The elite groups are composed of individuals who were on the Long March or who were in Yennan.
2. Among the rank and file of the CCP, much is made of the length of membership in the Party. For example, the Kwangtung provincial authorities recently decided to replace the mayor of Kwangchow, who had proven himself incompetent, with an individual junior in terms of length of Party membership, who was an excellent administrator.* Older Party members protested against the appointment, and it was withdrawn. Older Party members are often outspokenly scornful of the qualities of their Party juniors, even before non-Party persons.

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